

**Henry Riddell to George Washington, March 18, 1774,
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
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FROM MR. HENRY RIDDELL.

PISCATAWAY 18th. March 1774

SIR

I return you Mr. Ross's Letter, and will think no further of importing Germans,¹ the difficulty attending it being so great.

I am with Esteem Sir Your most hble Servt HENRY RIDDELL

1 FROM JOHN ROSS TO ROBERT ADAMS. PHILADELPHIA 1st March 1774 SIR I have before me your favour of 18th. Ultra come only to my hand by this post, and in Answer, have to inform you that the expenses attending the Importation of German Passengers have been so great of late years, that it is not by any Means an object of attention to have any concern in that Trade.—I have had no connection in that way these three or four years, and those who have embarked pretty much therein, have get so heart sick of their concern in that way, that they have now totally declined it. Rotterdam is the place where the Germans are shipped from, but the charges attending each before you can Secure them & get them on Board, Prove at times so considerable, that those who have not been concerned, can Scarsely credit it.—The Germans cannot easily be prevailed on to embark to any part of America, but that of Pennsylvania, Most of those that leave the Count[r]y have many connections in this Province, and no condition can Possibly reconcile the generality of them, to embark for any of the other Provinces.—Flour is entyrelly Prohibited in Holland, nor can I think of any thing that might Answer from this Country to be sent thither. When Logwood paid a Freight, the Shipping employed in that Trade, took in frequently a Cargo of Wood at the Bay with Which they proceeded in the Winter or early in the Spring for Rottdm.—But that Business being quite overdone, Most of the Vessells goes from England or some Ports in Eurrope in Ballast, and Credit on London to take their Reimbursement for the Charges of the Vessells outfitts &ca—Such a Vessell as May have about two hundred Freights, will probably require from a thousand to £1500 Sterg outfitts, possibly more as it depends on the debts the People may contract in geting down from Germany to Holland. I could not undertake the delivery of any Number of Germans with you, knowing the difficulty of geting them to agree to their going to any other Province Except that of Pennsyla[??] where they have hopes of meeting their Relations, or old

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Acquaintances.—Some Family might possibly be engaged after [covered by seal] to this place but as they have their own terms to make respecting the time they serve to redeem them, it is no easy matter to treat with them. —A Native of Germany that resided in your Country, & could describe such Advantages as they might have by going thither, might help to Influence them, Excuse hurry—In the Meantime believe me to be with Respect Sir
Your very humble Servt JNO. ROSS